

U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna today issued the following statement on conference report on H.R. 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011:

"Today, I voted in support of extending the payroll tax holiday. This extension means more dollars in the pockets of our working and middle classes, and that's good for the economy. I support this tax cut for working families in Upstate New York. It is a win for the middle class, for the working class, and for every working American. To not support this measure is to increase taxes on Central New Yorkers when they can least afford it. It's unacceptable.

"Importantly, this bill also extends and reforms unemployment benefits for the rest of the year. The benefit program would be reformed to allow states to require that participants are working and training toward employment. We need to make sure that we reinstate personal responsibility into the benefits system. The goal of the benefits should be to actually get people back on the job, not discourage work or allow the government to compete with employers. These reforms are a step in the right direction.

"This bill continues important benefits and vital programs, while implementing reforms that bring greater fiscal responsibility to Washington."